

# FOR YOUNG READERS

## Sky-High Orchestra, This.

Every boy or girl who has lost any pigeons to the hawks should know this little trick the Chinese play on the raiders of their pigeon flocks.

A missionary in China writes: "Walking near Peking one day I heard a long-drawn whistling in the air. Looking up, I saw a flock of pigeons overhead. 'What!' I exclaimed, 'do Chinese pigeons whistle?'"

"There was a Chinaman passing, and I asked him about it. He took from his dress a set of small bamboos, joined with fine wires—as in the accompanying sketch—and handed them to me. It weighed only a few penny-weights.

"That is what makes the whistling," said he. 'We tie these to the



backs of carrier pigeons, looping the strings around the roots of the wings. When the pigeon is flying the wind rushes into the bamboos and makes them whistle. This scares away the hawks, so that the pigeon can bring its message safely. Sometimes there is only one bamboo whistle; but if there are more they are assorted so as to make a harsh sound when blown all at one time."

The little bamboo whistles must be made with care in order not to put too heavy a weight on the pigeons; but no American boy need be afraid to try to do what a Chinaman can do. Besides keeping off the robber hawks every owner of pigeons can have a sky-high orchestra.

## How Shellfish Talk.

Many seamen will tell of curious clicking sounds heard on calm nights at sea, and the origin of the noise seems so altogether unaccountable that it has often created some alarm among superstitious fishermen.

A distinguished naturalist made a careful study of the sounds on many occasions and found that it was not a sustained note, but made up of a multitude of tiny ones, each clear and distinct in itself, and ranging from a high treble to a bass. When the ear was applied to the gunwale of the boat the sound grew more intense, and in some places, as the boat moved on, it could not be heard at all.

On other occasions the sounds resembled the tolling of bells, the booming of guns and the noise of an Aeolian harp.

For a long time he was unable to trace the cause, but at length discovered that the sounds were made by the shellfish, hundreds of them opening their shells and closing them with sharp snaps. The noise, partly muffled by the water, sounded indescribably weird. He was finally led to the conclusion that, as the shellfish made the sounds, they probably had some meaning, and that the clicks might possibly be a warning of danger when the shallow water was disturbed by the boat.

## Tale of a Mirror.

Dear girls and boys, did you ever think of the stories treasured in that large mirror of which you have to be so careful? Would you ever suspect from its shining appearance that the

great glass has grown old by looking and reflecting?

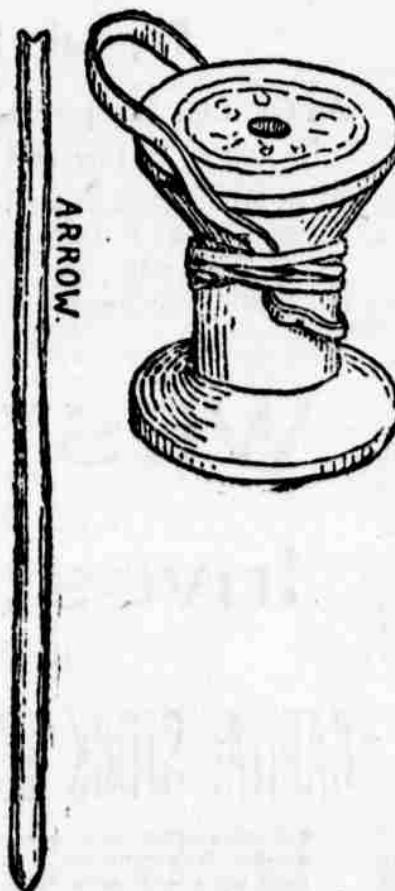
All kinds of pictures have been set within its frame; many of your own; some laughing and bright, others pouting and sad. The peculiar thing about a mirror is that it always gives you back exactly what you bring to it.

There would be the boys and girls sliding down the baluster and father hurrying out to save the chandelier; there you would all be around the piano singing "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," and there—oh! there is your birthday party! Oh, look at the children's gay clothes and see the pretty decorations! Can you see further back—there in the corner—where mother's great-grandmamma looked when she was little? And her cousin Jack in his pink satin clothes bowing before the pretty little lady. Their games were stately in those days. No romping for them.

Little Nellie, dancing up to examine her new dresses, never guesses what sad picture might have been there before hers, and how her fresh beauty would brighten it. How the old mirror must feel like coming from the wall and taking a turn with that round-eyed little maid. It surely must love the little folks even better than the grown-up people, for they do not take it so many cares.

## A Spool Gun Easily Made.

Here is a gun that can be made in a few minutes. Get two rubber bands and a good-sized spool from which the thread has been taken. Fasten one rubber upon the spool by binding it tightly with the other. The arrow is any thin stick that will slide easily through the spool. The best arrows are made of dowels which are three feet long and one-fourth inch thick.



## The Gun and Arrow.

These may be purchased at any hardware store at a cost of one cent each. Sharpen one end of the arrow and cut a niche in the other.

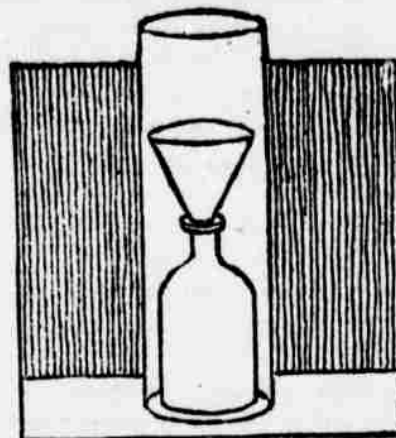
To use, place the arrow in the spool, put the rubber in the niche and pull both rubber and arrow out as far as possible. If the spool is held in the left hand and the rubber is strong

enough it will shoot the arrow fully fifty feet away.

## Bottle for a Rain Gauge.

Any boy can make a rain gauge and measure the amount of a rainfall for himself.

The simplest form of gauge consists of a funnel with a definite area, say, 12 inches, the neck of which fits in a bottle. The rain that falls into the funnel runs down into the bottle, of course, and the quantity is measured by means of a graduated glass.



## The Home-Made Gauge.

Any boy can measure the rainfall for himself. Having provided the funnel and the bottle—the metal cylinder outside is not essential—let him fit them as described, and then put them in a level, open place, away from trees and buildings, with the mouth of the funnel about a foot from the ground. The bottle should be fastened in position, to avoid being overturned by the wind, and should rest perfectly level.

When the measure is to be taken the water should be poured into a graduated glass, and the number of cubic inches calculated, which will give the amount to the area of the top of the funnel.

## A Few More Conundrums.

What bird is a peddler like? A hawk.

Why is a tight boot like an oak tree? Because it produces a corn (acorn).

How do you swallow a door? Bolt it.

Why is a watchman like a mill horse? Because he goes his rounds.

Why is a thump like a hat? Because it is felt.

Where should a starving man be sent? To Hungary.

Why is the sun like a man of fashion? Because it turns night into day.

If a farmer raises 365 bushels of wheat in dry weather, what would he raise in wet weather? An umbrella.

When is a door not a door? When it's an egress (a negress).

When is a note not a note? When it's due (dew).

When is wine an eatable? When it is a little tart.

Why are e and i the happiest of vowels? Because they are in happiness while all the rest are in purgatory.

## Plant Was Suffocated.

A New Hampshire man had a very choice fern which he kept in his store, and fearing that it would be hurt by frost during an excessive cold snap last winter he placed it in a tight showcase with a small lighted lamp in one corner of the case. When he came to the store in the morning he found his fern ruined, not by the frost, but by the burning out of all the oxygen in the air in the case. The plant had simply suffocated.

## Forbidding the Banns

It is usually considered that the difficult problem in getting married is in finding some one to have you, but in Farmington, Me., it is different, according to the Kennebec Journal. There, if both are willin' and so signify to the town clerk, it does not settle the matter, as proved in two instances recently. In one case the selectmen of the town interfered; in the second instance, where the would-be bride had been a widow just fourteen days, a written notice was filed with the town clerk, worded as follows: "To Louis Votter, town clerk: We hereby file the following caution with you not to issue a certificate to — and —, for this reason, that Mrs. —'s husband has just passed away, and his mother feels very much grieved in having the marriage take place at present." Signed by six names.

It is well that there is no one without a fault, for he would not have a friend in the world. He would seem to belong to a different species.

## Strong Language.

Fredericksburg, Ind., June 20.—Rev. Enoch P. Stevens of this place uses strong language in speaking of Dodd's Kidney Pills and he gives good reasons for what he says:

"I can't praise Dodd's Kidney Pills too much," says Mr. Stevens. "They have done me so much good. I was troubled with my kidneys so much that I had to get up two or three times in the night and sometimes in the day when starting to the waterhouse the water would come from me before getting there. Two boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills cured me entirely."

"I have recommended Dodd's Kidney Pills to many people and have never yet heard of a failure. Dodd's Kidney Pills are the things for kidney disease and rheumatism."

Dodd's Kidney Pills always cure the kidneys. Good kidneys ensure pure blood. Pure blood means good health.

A beautiful eye makes silence eloquent; a kind eye makes contradiction an assent; an enraged eye makes beauty deformed. The eye speaks a language in which there can be no deceit, nor can a skillful observer be imposed upon by looks.

## \$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

## A Good Fruit Country

BENNINGTON: William Medell, a farmer living near here, brought in some fine damson plums, some of them measuring six and a half inches in circumference and weighing two and a half ounces. Mr. Medell has several trees of this variety and says he intends to plant 100 more. This is certainly a fine fruit and vegetable country, as is clearly shown by the fine fruits that are being brought in.

If you wish beautiful, clear, white clothes use Red Cross Ball Blue. Large 2 oz package, 5 cents.

A square man does not need to be all corners.

The story is told of a meeting of creditors who were trying to settle the affairs of a merchant who had failed for a large amount. He insisted that his assets were absolutely nothing—that his wife owned the house in which he lived; that the family farm was the property of his daughter; that the store belonged to his son. "I have nothing," he said, "except my body, which you can divide among you." "Well, shentleman," spoke up a Jewish creditor, "if you do dot, I speaks right now for his gall."—Exchange.